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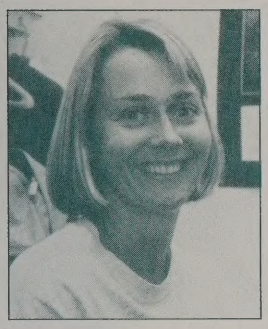
The Bureau of Land Management Service Center Newsletter August 1992

CENTER SCENE

A VISIT FROM DOWN UNDER



Dr. Gail Kelly from the Australian Key Centre in Land Information Systems (AKCLIS), Queensland, Australia, recently visited the Remote Sensing Section at the Service Center. Pam Clemmer, Remote Sensing's training coordinator, contacted Dr. Kelly last winter to acquire information about some Computer-Assisted Learning (CAL) modules she had developed. After learning that Dr. Kelly would be coming to the United States this summer, Pam invited her to visit the Service Center.

AKCLIS, which consists of Queensland University of Technology (School of Surveying), the University of Queensland (Department of Geographical Sciences and Planning), and the Queensland Government's Department of Lands, performs management responsibilities similar to those of USGS and BLM combined. The aim of the Key Centre is to establish and maintain a world recognized center of excellence dealing with geographic information that is of academic and commercial significance to Australia. Dr. Kelly is directly affiliated with the Queensland Government's Department of Lands, whose mission is to manage the State's land resource equitably and effectively, and to provide highly professional land related services that satisfy clients' needs. Queensland, which is in northeast Australia, is six times larger in land area than the state of Colorado.

In 1990, Dr. Kelly was awarded first place honors by the Australian Institute of Cartographers for development of CAL modules in Remote Sensing. She subsequently was awarded a Churchill Fellowship by the Bank of Queensland for study at San Diego State University and the University of Colorado. She studied instructional techniques and CAL software for use in remote sensing education in the Australia-Pacific region. The CAL modules for Remote Sensing have been sold to teaching institutions, Government Departments, and research institutes across Australia, and in North America, England, and Europe, enhancing the international profile of AKCLIS.

During her 2-week stay, Dr. Kelly briefed remote sensing personnel on issues of concern in Queensland and discussed training issues relating to remote sensing. She also visited the Service Center's Photogrammetry and Cartography sections, the Earth Sciences Information Center, and USGS Map Sales. She discussed mapping, remote sensing, and training issues with BLM Technology Transfer, the College of Forestry and Natural Resources (Colorado State University) in Fort Collins, and the USGS GIS Lab. Remote Sensing staff also arranged for her to visit the Bureau of Reclamation to observe their videography projects currently in progress.

Dr. Kelly's experiences with remote sensing and land information systems reinforced the idea that our countries share many common land management issues and problems. The Remote Sensing Staff will maintain contact with Dr. Kelly regarding training development, and hopes to establish an information sharing network for common remote sensing issues in the future.

PROTOTYPE DEMONSTRATION A BIG SUCCESS

The New Mexico State Office recently hosted a demonstration of the Prototype capabilities for BLM, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and Department of the Interior (DOI) officials. Early reports indicate a major success for BLM and for the ALMRS/Modernization Project. Comments from audience members were extremely positive and favorable.

The Prototype demonstration has been an eagerly awaited step in the overall modernization effort. The demonstration is the culmination of more than 12 months of active development effort by Service Center and state BLM analysts and specialists.

As this goes to press, the demonstration is being repeated in Washington for Department, OMB, and Capitol Hill officials. Partly as a result of the previous success, this demonstration was moved up from August and the audience was significantly expanded to include members of Congressional committees and others with an interest in BLM's automation efforts.

Lessons learned during the development of the Prototype software will significantly contribute to the further development of the ALMRS system.

PERSONNEL NEWS

New Employees:

Thomas Andrich, Proc. Clerk, SC-652
James Barrett, Comp. Spec., SC-344
Karl Ford, Toxicologist, SC-212
Susan Lindgren, Secretary (OA), SC-342
Maura Lloyd, Summer Aid, SC-310
Joseph McDowell, Secretary, SC-613
Chris Padilla, Proc. Clerk, SC-652
Darlene Puleo, Admin. Aid, SC-323
Terry Reed, Project Manager, SC-329
Allen Salo, Pers. Mgt. Spec., SC-630
Robin Stoebe, Comp. Spec., SC-343
Mary Stulz, Land Use & Environ. Plan. Specialist, SC-214
Richard Thompson, St. Trainee (AV), SC-140
Rhonda White, Admin. Supp. Clerk, SC-631
Sheau-Mau Wan, St. Trainee, (Comp. Asst.), SC-213

Separations:

Delores Laubhan, Vchr. Exam., SC-616
Mary Valverde, Microform Equip. Operator, SC-675
Margaret Van Scyoc, Acct. Tech., SC-615
Vicky Young, Proc. Clerk, SC-651

PERUVIAN PROFILE

Armando Lazarte was recently named the Hispanic Employment Program Manager (HEPM) for the Service Center. Born in Lima, Peru, Armando came to the U.S. in 1970 and became a citizen in 1978.

While he lived in Lima, Peru, Armando studied acting at the National College of Drama, as well as music, voice, and classical guitar at the National Conservatory of Music. In 1969, he received his B.A. degree in music education from the College of Education in Peruvian Folk Music and Dance. He went on to star in radio and television productions and to record a single for Apple Records, but his Peruvian show business career was cut short due to the Military Junta in 1970.

From his arrival to Washington, DC in 1970 until his move to Denver in 1991, Armando entertained professionally as a one-man-band show for restaurants, lounges, U.S. Congress receptions, Latin-American Embassies' affairs, military bases, and private parties. He was among the entertainers who performed in the first Latin-American Festival in Washington, DC in 1970, which has since become the most famous annual event for Latinos. His performance got him a contract with Bronze Artist Records, a small company from Phoenix, Arizona.

Armando's show business career suffered during the 1982 recession. Once again, he had to make some hard decisions in order to survive and feed his family. He decided to go back to college and start a new career that was similar to music (computers and music are very much alike—they are both perfect!). In 1985 he graduated from Prince George's Community College in Maryland with two A.A. degrees—one in Business Computer Programming and one in Computer Management—with an overall GPA of 4.00/4.00. He was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honorary Society, Who's Who in American Junior Colleges, 1985 National Talent Roster, and P.G.C.C. Honors Program. He planned to continue his education to the Ph.D. level, but because of family obligations, work became a priority.

Armando's Federal Government career began in 1985 with the Internal Revenue Service, Washington, DC, where he worked as a cooperative education student and a Computer Assistant GS-5 until June 1986. He then went to the Naval Telecommunications Automation Support Center as a Computer Programmer, before becoming a Computer Programmer Analyst for Citicorp Savings' Systems and Technology Center. In 1988, Armando worked as an Analyst for Advanced Management, Inc., during the successful relocation and conversion of the Washington, DC Department of Agriculture Data Center to the Kansas City National Computer Center. From there he went to the Bureau of Census as a Computer Programmer Analyst GS-11, and in 1990, he went to the National Weather Service's Systems Operation Center as a GS-12. Armando presently works for the Division of Systems Operations/ Maintenance and Support Services.

Armando is proud of his wife Tamara, whom he married in 1980, and their four talented children: Tabitha (10), Hannah (9), Noah (5), and Samson (4). Tabitha and Hannah were piano and violin students at the Washington Conservatory of Music in DC, and played at the famous Wolf Trap in Vienna, Virginia for the Honors Program of the Conservatory in May 1991 as outstanding students.

MONEY IN, MONEY OUT

The Bureau has transferred the distribution of receipts program from the Washington Finance Office to the Division of Finance at the Service Center. Distribution, payments to states and counties, reports, and statistics are now being handled in the Branch of General Accounting.

Collection and disposition of revenues are governed by BLM regulations and Federal statutes pertaining to specific economic activities. Revenue is earned from sale or rent of lands and resources that are managed by BLM.

According to "Public Land Statistics," BLM receipts in 1991 were $230 million. Of this, $168 million was collected from timber sales, $18.8 million from grazing fees, $18.5 million for sale of land and materials, $15.4 million from minerals, $4.2 million from rights-of-way, $1.8 million from fees and commissions, $.5 million from rent of land, and $2.8 million from other sources.

BLM made distribution of the $230 million collected in 1991 by paying states, counties, and cities $105 million for their share of BLM revenue; returning $92 million of the receipts to the U.S. Treasury; transferring $23 million to Federal agencies; and retaining $10 million for BLM's range improvement fund. Payments to states are made monthly for oil and gas rights-of-way receipts. Two other receipts are distributed semiannually. Most of the remaining distributions are made on an annual basis.

The above collections and distributions represent a Federal source of revenue, other than tax dollars, which increases U.S. Treasury funds, finances Federal programs, and is shared with state and local governments.

Distribution of receipts has been administered by David Holland, Chief of Finance in Washington. The principal accountants involved in the operations of the program are Jerry Fries, who is providing assistance in the transfer of duties, and William Howell, who is now working at the Service Center. Contacts at the Service Center are John Vest, Chief, Program and Revenue Section, and Alice Sonne. Special thanks to Systems Accountant, Shirley Schreiner, of the Washington Finance Staff, and other individuals who are helping to make this a successful transition. The Division of Finance looks forward to their involvement in this Bureau project.